port for technical clearance by the Central Public Health and Environmental Engineering Organisation (CPHEEO) and to confirm availability of plan provision for the scheme to enable the Government of India to pose it for external assistance.

**Benefits of Crop Insurance Scheme**

469. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state to refer to the reply to Starred Question 118 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 6th May, 1988 and state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the demands for crop Insurance Scheme for all the crops and at all levels whether Tahsil, Block or Village and; if so, what is the decision of Government in this regard, and whether the non-loanee farmers are also to be benefited; and

(b) whether there have been any complaints that certain States had not received the Centra] support in time in this scheme or that certain States have discontinued or are about to discontinue the scheme due to financial compulsions and if so, the details thereof and what is Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Government's attention has been drawn from time to time to cover several crops other than those already-covered under the Crop Insurance Scheme and also to reduce the unit size of crop insurance from Taluka/ Block to Village level. The unit size of crop insurance may be reduced to village level provided the State Governments have adequate yield data for a given insured crop for last 5 years at village level and provided it is possible for them to conduct minimum number of crop cutting experiments in all villages at the end of the season. Presently, there is no proposal to provide crop insurance benefit to the non-loanee farmers or covering any other crop.

(b) Some States have in past represented to the Government of India for timely payment of indemnity claims under Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme. However, no implementing State in past has discontinued the Scheme due to financial compulsions. For prompt settlement of claims, it has been decided that the General Insurance Corporation of India would work out the complete details of claims payable within two months of the receipt of yield data by them from State Governments.

**Ban on use of Pesticides**

470. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state;

(a) whether a member of the Planning Commission has suggested to Government to ban use of pesticides in a phased manner as these are highly poisonous; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) As reported in the Hidustan Times of 15th June, 1988, a Member of the Planning Commission had observed that certain pesticides banned for use in advanced countries are in use in India.

(b) The Government of India in August, 1984, constituted an Expert Committee to examine the utility in India of pesticides banned or phased out or restricted in use in developed countries and give suggestions for safer substitutes. The Committee has given its report on DDT. BHC, aldrin, dieldrin, chlordane, heptachlor and EDB. The recommendations of the